



PRESS RELEASE

Psychotherapist Agrees to Pay \$82,000 for Alleged Medicaid Fraud

BALTIMORE, MD (April 23, 2019) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that M. Wagdi Attia, M.D., a psychotherapist in Gaithersburg, agreed to pay \$82,000 to resolve allegations that he submitted false claims for Medicaid services.

The Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit alleged that from January 1, 2013 through May 31, 2017, Attia submitted claims to Medicaid for psychotherapy services requiring certain amounts of face-to-face time with the patient when, in fact, Attia’s time-stamped medical records showed that he provided less than the required amount of time. The State also alleged that Attia’s medical records failed to reflect the provision of all elements of the psychotherapy service required, and that the use of repetitive language and stock phrases in his medical charts casts doubt on the nature and extent of the services he actually provided.

According to the settlement agreement, Attia retired from the practice of medicine and agreed not to renew his lapsed license or Medicaid privileges. Attia also reached a settlement with the federal government.

The settlements arose from a joint effort with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Maryland. Attorney General Frosh thanked the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for its work in the case, specifically Assistant Attorney General Raja Mishra.

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